

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

9-20-1973

Grizzlies attempt comeback against major college foe

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Grizzlies attempt comeback against major college foe" (1973). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 25737.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/25737>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



GRIZZLIES ATTEMPT COMEBACK
AGAINST MAJOR COLLEGE FOE

fultz/jb
9-20-73
sports local + State



sports

Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522
MISSOULA.....

Hoping to bounce back from last week's disappointing loss to the University of North Dakota, the Montana Grizzlies fly to Houston, Texas, Saturday for an evening encounter with major college foe Rice University.

Montana dropped a 31-10 decision to North Dakota's highly regarded Sioux, but coach Jack Swarthout proclaims, "We were equal to or better than North Dakota personnel wise." Swarthout attributed the loss to inconsistent offensive play and a couple of third quarter defensive lapses.

To gain a victory over Rice, UM will have to avoid defensive let downs and will have to move the ball effectively on offense.

In their first game Rice's Owls led 16th ranked Houston 6-3 with 5:19 left in the third period, but, with starting quarterback Fred Geisler on the sideline with leg cramps, succumbed 24-6.

Coach Jack Swarthout calls the Owls a good football team. "They have good backs, a fine passer and are big and quick defensively," Swarthout said after viewing film of the Rice-Houston contest.

"Rice has the best personnel that any Montana team has faced since I have been coaching at the University," he said.

The Owls, under second-year coach Al Conover, are in the middle of an all-out effort to restore the athletic prominence that the school enjoyed in the 1950s and early 1960s. In a span of eight years the Owls participated in four major bowl games, including two Cotton Bowl appearances.

Last year Conover spurred the Owls to their best season in nine years and recorded victories over such football names as the University of Houston, Arkansas, Texas A&M and Texas Christian. Rice finished with a 5-5-1 record and tied for fourth in the Southwest Conference with a 3-4 league mark.

With Florida State transfer Geisler doing the quarterbacking the Owls expect to pass 50 per cent of the time. Geisler was an understudy to Gary Huff, who is now the backup quarterback for the Chicago Bears, at Florida State and transferred to Rice after being redshirted by the Florida school. Tommy Kramer, a high school All-American in 1972, is Geisler's backup and a fine passer in his own right.

The two threw 31 times against Houston, a figure that Conover referred to as "fewer times than the Cougars (Houston) expected us to."

Gary Ferguson, the team's leading rusher a year ago, carried 14 times for 56 yards against Houston. "He is a fine back," Swarthout comments.

Rice's offensive line is built around huge tackles Randy Eggemeyer and Sammy Johnson. Eggemeyer is 6-4 and 243 pounds, while Johnson scales 235 pounds and measures 6-3.

Defensively, the Owls use a five-man front that is keyed around 260-pound nose guard Cornelius Walker. Walker is nicknamed "Bear" and has a legitimate 4.7 clocking in the 40-yard dash. He is only a junior and Conover expects great things from the big fellow.

In the secondary Rice has all-conference safety Bruce Henley. Henley (6-2, 180) is being touted for All-America honors and is closing in on the Southwest Conference's interception record. Henley has 14, four short of the record.

Citrus College transfer Ken Williams, who has sat out with a leg injury during UM's first two games, will be returning to his hometown for Saturday night's game.

The Rice-Montana game in the Owls 72,000-seat stadium is far from being the only sports show in Houston this weekend. In addition to Bobby Riggs-Billie Jean King, the Astrodome has Houston vs. South Carolina Friday night and Henry Aaron and the Atlanta Braves against the Astros Saturday night.

Saturday is band day in Rice Stadium, which, incidentally, is the site of the 1974 Super Bowl, and 21 Houston area high school bands will be competing throughout the day for the honor of putting on the halftime show Saturday night.

Game time is 6:30 MDT and will be carried to the Grizzly Radio Network by KYLT.

#####